

**In the Claims:**

1-118. (Previously canceled).

119. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 80% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~
- (b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
- (c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~
- (d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
- (e) ~~the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~
- (f)(c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or~~
- (g)(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;~~

wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

120. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 85% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~
- (b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
- (c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~
- (d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

- (e) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);
- (f)(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or
- (g)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;  
wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

121. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 90% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);
- (d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (e) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);
- (f)(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or
- (g)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;  
wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

122. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 95% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;

- (e) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);
- (f) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (g) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);

(f)(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or

(g)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;  
wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

123. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 99% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);
- (d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (e) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);

(f)(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or

(g)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;  
wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

124. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~;
- (d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide~~;
- (e)(c) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);
- (f)(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or
- (g)(e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160.

125. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422).

126. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide.

127-128. Canceled.

129. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421).

130. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421).

131. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160.
- 132-134. (Canceled)
135. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 119.
136. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim 135, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.
137. (Currently amended) A An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 135.
138. (Previously presented) The host cell of Claim 137, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.